

## COVID-19 Talking Points about Hunting, Fishing and Outdoor Recreation March 25, 2020

### Approved messaging:

- *(This was posted on the CDFW Facebook page)* Now more than ever, we understand the public's need to enjoy the benefits of nature. Spending time in the outdoors is beneficial to our overall health and wellness, but it's everyone's responsibility to practice social distancing of 6 feet. This means avoiding crowded trails and parking lots. To help reduce crowds, State Parks has closed [some parking lots](#) to avoid inadvertent congregation and reduce the density of visitors. More closures are anticipated. Fishing is allowed, as long as anglers can maintain #socialdistancing of 6 feet or more from other people. If you find that your favorite fishing hole is crowded, please do not risk your health and the health of others! Be smart and stay safe – we are all in this together and we must #flattenthecurve.
- Many of our wildlife areas and ecological reserves are already unstaffed much of the time. We intend to try to keep those open as long as people are implementing social distancing of 6 feet or more. It's ok to go outside into open spaces as long as people practice safe physical distancing. Along with physical distancing, people should frequently wash hands with soap, avoid touching their face, avoid contact with sick people, and cover their coughs and sneezes.
- We are not halting stocking, however there have already been some cancellations of localized fishing in the city events and bass derbies, given the group size, local orders, etc. Those cancellations are likely to increase.
- *(This was posted on the CDFW Facebook page)* We are getting questions about how the public can access hunting and fishing opportunities at this time. Californians have many options to harvest fish for food, but please remember all seasons, limits, license, private property restrictions and other laws and regulations still apply. Spring turkey season is just around the corner, and there is no closed season or limit for wild pig.
  - Hunting and fishing regulations: <https://wildlife.ca.gov/Regulations>.
  - Turkey season information: <https://wildlife.ca.gov/Hunting/Upland-Game-Birds/Hunts...>
  - Wild pig hunting information: <https://wildlife.ca.gov/Hunting/Wild-Pig>.
  - Licenses can be purchased online and the CDFW website has additional information about hunting and fishing regulations. Purchase a license online: <https://www.ca.wildlifelicense.com/Int.../CustomerSearch/Begin>.
- *(This was posted on the CDFW Facebook page)* CDFW continues to enforce laws that protect California's fish and wildlife, and wildlife officers are patrolling as normal. We as Californians are navigating this crisis together and rest assured,

wildlife officers will continue to do their part to ensure public safety and protect the state's fish and wildlife resources as they always have.

- *(This is approved language from State Parks)* Californians can walk, run, hike and bike in their local neighborhoods as long as they continue to practice social distancing of 6 feet. This means avoiding crowded trails & parking lots. To help reduce crowds, State Parks is modifying operations at some parks, including closing vehicular access and parking lots to reduce density of visitors. A list of closures can be found at [www.parks.ca.gov/flattenthecurve](http://www.parks.ca.gov/flattenthecurve). Everyone has the responsibility to "Flatten the COVID-19 Curve at Parks" by maintaining a social distance of 6 feet or more when recreating in the outdoors, and staying home if they are sick. If visitors cannot maintain social distancing, they need to leave the park. For information on National Parks, please visit their website [here](#).
- *(These flyers were approved for State Parks and can be used on our lands and facilities)*  
[http://www.parks.ca.gov/?page\\_id=30350](http://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=30350)  
[http://www.parks.ca.gov/?page\\_id=30351](http://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=30351)
- There have been no changes to the fishing regulations in California as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. What is restricted is movement. There is a statewide stay at home order. Please refer to all state, county and local orders and advisements for direction as to what is or is not acceptable behavior during this emergency.
- On March 19, Governor Gavin Newsom issued statewide Executive Order N-33-20 requiring "all individuals living in the State of California to stay home or at their place of residence except as needed to maintain continuity of operations of the federal critical infrastructure sectors." The California Department of Public Health (CDPH) clarified the Executive Order in a FAQ published at <https://covid19.ca.gov/stay-home-except-for-essential-needs/>.
- The CDPH is encouraging people to still go outside, but to remember to maintain a safe social distance of 6 feet from people who are not a part of a household. So, at this time, you may fish or hunt, as long as you practice safe social distancing measures and comply with any additional specific restrictions in place for parks and other public facilities and for counties and cities.
- Please remember that since governmental coronavirus responses are changing rapidly, to check the latest federal, state, county, and city orders to ensure that you are complying with the latest recommendations and directives.